

***Bolandra oregana* S. Wats.**  
Oregon bolandra  
Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

**Status:** State Sensitive

**Rank:** G3S2

**General Description:** Fragile herbaceous perennial; stems usually single but can be several, usually branched above, 8 to 24 in. (20 to 60 cm) tall; short horizontal root stalks with many bulblets; leaves basal and palmately veined, stem leaves kidney shaped, lobed, toothed, stipules small on lower leaves but large on floral bracts; carpels 2, fused with free portion tapered upward and hollow; flowers few to several, bell shaped with linear petals, reddish or purple brown in color and equal in size to the similarly shaped calyx lobes, stamens alternating with the petals, filaments purple; capsules with two segments fused about  $\frac{1}{4}$  their length, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. (1 cm) long.

**Identification Tips:** This species can be readily identified when the peculiar reddish or purple brown flowers are present. Vegetatively, it resembles other members of this family, particularly *Sullivantia oregana*. *B. oregana* differs in having distinctive leaf-like stipules and bulblets along the rootstalks rather than slender stolons.

**Phenology:** Flowering occurs from May through early June.

**Range:** Lower Columbia River Gorge and Snake River Valley of northeastern Oregon, adjacent Idaho and Washington where it is scattered in Skamania, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin counties.

**Habitat:** The taxon occurs along the Columbia River drainage mostly at low elevations; it is usually found near streams and moist, rocky places in deep shade. Associated species include shooting star (*Dodecatheon dentatum*), western saxifrage (*Saxifraga occidentalis*), stream bank spring beauty (*Montia parviflora*) and clasping arnica (*Arnica amplexicaulis*). One of the Washington populations occurs in Skamania County on basaltic scabland, on south-facing slopes in areas damp in spring and dry in summer.

**Ecology:** This species grows in a variety of habitats. Though it usually is found in moist, shady, wooded areas on cliffs near waterfalls, it has also been found in open, rocky areas and on steep, grassy, semi-open slopes.

**State Status Comments:** The range of this species is limited to two

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Known distribution of  
*Bolandra oregana* S. Wats  
in Washington



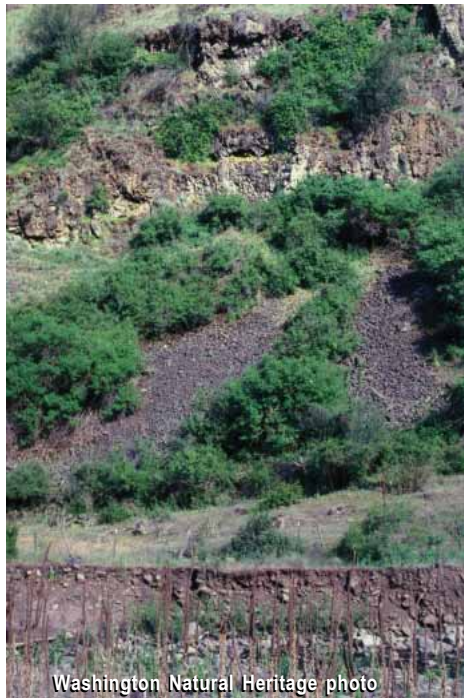
● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Lois Kemp



Washington Natural Heritage photo

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areas: the Columbia River Gorge and the Snake River Valley. In addition to historical sightings, there are several recent populations mapped in the state, mainly from Skamania County, two in Columbia County, one in Asotin County and one in Garfield County.

**Inventory Needs:** Additional inventory, including relocation of old populations, is needed.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Potential threats include timber harvest operations, clearing of riparian areas, and application of herbicides.

**References:**

- Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp.
- Hitchcock, C.L. and A. Cronquist. 1973. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 730 pp.
- Kemp, L. and T. Butler. Mt. Hood National Forest Sensitive Plants and Noxious Weeds Field Guide. USDA: Forest Service-Pacific Northwest Region.